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Ohio Mining Journal

Title: Address of the President at January Session, 1887

Creators: [Haseltine, Robert Montgomery, 1846-1905](#)

Issue Date: 15-May-1887

Citation: Ohio Mining Journal, vol. 5, no. 3 (May 15, 1887), 55-56.

URI: <http://hdl.handle.net/1811/32533>

Appears in Collections: [Ohio Mining Journal: Volume 5, no. 3 \(May 15, 1887\)](#)

THE OHIO MINING JOURNAL.

MAY 15, 1887.

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT AT JANUARY SESSION, 1887.

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GENTLEMEN OF THE INSTITUTE — One year ago when you elected me President of this society, I felt my incompetency of taking the responsibility of such an important position. That feeling was never more forcibly impressed on me than at the present time. Through no ability of my own, however, our society has grown and the interest of its members has continued and the outlook for this meeting is as, if not more promising than any that have preceded it.

During the year our society has been increased by sixteen active members, making the total number of active members ninety-eight. We have lost none by withdrawal that I am aware of. At the beginning of the year we had on our roll four honorary members to which the executive committee have added. It has pleased Divine Providence to remove from our roll a distinguished scholar in the death of Prof. Charles Whittlesy, one of our honorary members. Not hav-

ing the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with him I have asked Prof. Orton to prepare a suitable eulogy, which he will deliver at this meeting.

At the beginning of the year we had on hand \$40.94; we received for membership fees, \$36.00; for annual dues, \$43.00; subscription to MINING JOURNAL, \$2.40; making the total receipts for the year, \$122.34. We paid voucher No. 33, favor of Emerson McMillen, \$50.25; we paid for 350 copies of the MINING JOURNAL, \$40.00; for sundry items, \$33.15; we paid on account, \$20.00, leaving on hand, \$29.19, with the expenses of this meeting and one-half of the Secretary's salary unpaid.

I am informed by the Secretary that there was due the Institute for dues and membership fees at our last meeting \$176.00; and for the year of 1886, \$141.00, making a total of \$317.00. I think a part of this would be paid if their attention was called to the subject.

From the Secretary's books it seems 70 members failed to pay their dues and only 28 paid them last year. This may be attributed to the fact of our not publishing any JOURNAL this year. Those who did not attend the meetings received no benefit from the Institute, which would tend to make them indifferent about paying their dues.

Under your instructions the publishing committee made no effort to issue the JOURNAL until they had enough matter to make a good volume.

At a meeting of the executive committee held at the office of Vice President Jennings, on December 4th, at which there was present, in addition to the committee, Messrs. Jennings, Dalrymple and Allen. It was decided that we had sufficient matter to warrant a publication of the JOURNAL, which was to be ready for distribution at this meeting.

The Secretary informs me that the papers read at the last two meetings were not all in his possession and the time was so short, he could not collect them in time for publication. With the matter on hand and the amount promised at this meeting I think we will have sufficient material for two editions this year, unless the institute decide to have them published by some scientific paper. No one regrets more than I our allowing the year to go by without a publica-

tion of our papers, and I hope it will never occur again.

Our summer meeting at Steubenville, I believe, to have been a most interesting affair, and one of profit to those who attended. As I was unavoidably deprived of attending, I have asked our esteemed friend, Mr. Roy, to give us a history of what they saw. The past year has been one of great depression in coal trade except the last few months, in which the demand has increased with slightly better prices. The unusual activity of the iron market has kept the demand for coal as great as it was at the close of navigation.

Natural gas had made great inroads on the local trade in some parts of the State. Were it not for the unusual demand for iron its presence would be most keenly felt where it is being used.

The adopting of a uniform price of mining known as the Columbus scale is a move in the direction to avoid strikes, starvation and riots. I regard it as one of the great events of the year.

I congratulate the Institute on its flattering prospects on entering the sixth year of its existence. After comparing its present list of members, with the number present, at its organization in this city on January 11th, 1881, it shows a remarkable growth, and when you consider who presided over it during the last year, you certainly have occasion for thanksgiving.

